

Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on
October 17, 1997 at 10:00am AD 131 Loyola Campus

Present: Mr. R. Côté, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, secretary, Mr. H. Zarins, Dr. Graub, Ms C. Hughes, Ms A. Ghadban, Prof. B. Barbieri, Ms C. Blackwood, Mr. A. Feldman, Mr. D. Hinton, Ms T. Ryan, Ms M. West, Mr. W. Kennedy, Mr. B. Barua, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms L. Lipscombe, Mr. R. MacIver, Ms J. Beaudoin,

Absent with Regrets: Ms A. Kerby, Ms J. Brathwaite, Ms C. Cogger, Mr. J. Edwards, Dr. R. Bonin, Ms A. Vroom, Mr. M. Bujold

Delegates: Ms A. Siano replaced Ms N. Torbit, Ms G. Paneta replaced Ms K. Hedrich

Guests: Ms L. Toscano, Mr. D. Tabakow, Mr. M. Leger, Ms D. Robinson

1. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Feldman requested that Campus Centre/Refectory Provisional Swap Agreement be added to the agenda under New Business. The motion to approve the agenda with this addition was made by Mr. Feldman, seconded by Ms Hughes. The motion was carried.

2. Remarks from the Chair

Mr. Côté informed Council that enrollment was not down substantially this year. However as the FTE (Full-time enrollment) figures are not available as of yet, we cannot confirm if the credit load per student is up or down. This of course will impact on the Student Services budget.

Mr. Côté reminded Council that Concordia Homecoming was this weekend (October 18-19) and encouraged Council to participate in this happy event.

The Memorial Service for Keith Lowther will be held Monday, October 20th at 10:00am in the Loyola Chapel.

3. Approval of Minutes of September 19, 1997

Mr. Côté wished to make a change to the minutes. On page 3, section C, the last line should read "Mr. Côté said the Vice Rector, Services has pledged to give his best efforts to ensure that there will be no imputation charges to the Campus Centre for 1997-98". Mr. Barua noted that the spelling of his last name was incorrect in the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes with as amended was made by Ms Blackwood and seconded by Ms Hughes. The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) CSU Audio Visual Centre.

At the September CCSL meeting a motion was passed to table the discussion until Council had time to read the distributed document. A motion to untable the document made by Mr. Feldman and seconded by Ms Ryan was carried.

Ms Blackwood felt strongly that this amount of \$2,050 should come from CSU as the balance needed for this project had been funded through the Master Card Program. She felt that there were better uses for this CCSL money. Mr. Feldman disagreed. He explained that a large percentage of the money allocated to student groups from CCSL Special Projects was used to help defray internal university costs such as Audio Visual. Therefore the equipment provided by CSU will reduce the demands on CCSL Special Projects Fund. Professor Barbieri asked if this request was a "one shot deal" or would it be repeated next year. Mr. Feldman replied this would be difficult to answer as different CSU executives have different priorities. However he felt that by funding this project this year in no way implied automatic funding for next year. Each project is submitted and viewed on its own merit. Discussion ensued on booking procedures versus the high demand for equipment as well as the CSU budget allocations for groups/associations. Concern was expressed over possible conflict of interest between the different associations. Mr. Feldman reiterated that this A.V. Centre could not possibly solve all A.V. problems but was a step in the right direction. Ms Ryan informed Council that the A.V. Booking Contract closely follows the Concordia Audio Visual Contract. Bookings will be on a first come, first served basis. CSU groups/associations will not get priority. Mr. Feldman reminded Council that the \$2,050 was being requested from the CCSL Speakers Fund of \$6,000. He felt that well over \$2,050 in A.V. expenses is disbursed annually to associations through the CCSL Projects Fund. Council felt it would be prudent to ask for a detailed report on equipment usage as a condition of the monetary transfer. Ms Ryan put forth the following amended motion:

BIR that \$2,050 of the CCSL Speakers Fund be allocated to the CSU Audio Visual Centre as outlined in the proposal presented to CCSL and be it further resolved that CSU provide a detailed report on usage to CCSL by May 98.

The motion was carried with 2 against, 0 abstentions.

4b) Student Representation on University Wide Committee

Mr. Côté announced that the student representative on the University Space Planning Committee is Mr. T. Rossi. This committee has met once.

Mr. Feldman questioned the composition of the Loyola Revitalization Committee. There are 3 representatives from the Board of Governors, 3 Faculty representatives, 3 support staff representatives and 2 students. He felt the student representation should be at parity with the other representation. Mr. Côté said as the Task Force was mandated by the Rector, perhaps it would be a good idea to direct this request to his office.

Mr. Kennedy felt graduate representation on committees/task forces may have been overlooked by various departments. Mr. Feldman said it is the policy of CSU to ask for graduate and undergraduate representation on committees. Ms Ryan informed Council that there was a graduate representative on the Revitalization of Loyola Task Force - Ms K. Ford. Mr. Côté indicated that he will include the importance of having graduate representation on committees/task forces, etc. in his survey of student representation.

5. Items of Information

Mr. Feldman took the opportunity to ask whether Mr. MacIver was aware that the coffee machine in the Bryan Building has been out of order for quite some time. Mr. MacIver replied he had just been informed of this problem and was looking into it.

Mr. Côté announced that the Minister of Education announced her intent to implement a number of the recommendations made in the Montmarquette Report on student loan repayment. For example, the ceiling on grants has been lifted up to \$5,000. He was also pleased to announce that the Minister is interested to initiate a work-study programme modeled on the Concordia's programme.

Dr. Graub announced there will be a Career Fair for Arts & Science students. Traditionally turnout has been very low for this type of event. She asked if Council would publicize this event wherever possible. Prof. Barbieri said the Faculty of Commerce has a course specifically designed for Arts & Science students and he would be pleased to publicize any information.

Mr. Hinton expressed concern over the deplorable state of the Hall Building. Lights are dim, often burned out, clocks are "off", ceilings are falling down and it is generally dirty. This atmosphere affects students' mental as well as physical state. Mr. Côté agreed this is a serious issue that can affect a students' performance. He will ensure the Vice Rector, Services receives a copy of the minutes. Ms Boujaklian broached the subject of the clocks. Apparently the whole system will have to be changed. It is a costly undertaking and is being investigated now. Again it was noted that cutbacks in staff have an effect on the maintenance of the buildings. Ms Boujaklian encouraged students/staff/faculty to report any maintenance problems to the hot line "2400" as soon as possible.

Ms Siano announced that flu shots will be available again this year, just call Health Services for an appointment. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of the flu shot. Ms Siano agreed there are two schools of thought, but basically if you meet the criteria, she felt it is good for you. Mr. Côté said it is a personal issue for students to decide and that such decisions should be made in an informed fashion.

6. Reports

a) Counseling & Development Smart Start Program

Dr. Graub briefly outlined the history of this program. She explained the basic goal of the program was to connect a new student with a friendly, informed person. Letters are sent out to all first year students inviting them to make an appointment with a counselor. This "mentor" looks at the student as a whole not just as an academic entity. To date approximately 526 new students have been seen. She introduced the staff members who elaborated on the various aspects of services provided. Mr. D. Tabakow, Mr. M. Leger and Ms D. Robinson each stressed the proactive and preventative nature of this program. Each first year student has the opportunity to work one on one with a counselor. The student has a chance to explore the many facets of their Concordia experience both academically and socially. One service the counselors stressed as beneficial for students was career counseling. Many students do not know what job opportunities are available in their field. Often with the help of a career profile, the student may find that another program would be more suitable to their interests and abilities. Ms Ryan asked if it would be possible to set up career workshops for students in specific departments. Ms

Robinson agreed and welcomed the chance to give a workshop. Ms Lipscombe asked if the effects of this program have been monitored with respect to student retention.

Dr. Graub said that because this is only the second year for the program, it may be a little early to track results, but statistics will be available. Professor Barbieri pointed out that often Counseling and Development is perceived as a place to go only when you have the problem, it is important to realize how important this unit is as part of a student's development. He felt that the academic sector should be sensitive to and aware of this service and offer support. Dr. Graub indicated she is starting to "make in-roads" with the Faculties. Dr. Graub reiterated that although the Smart Start Program is targeted for first year students, all students are welcome at Counseling & Development at any time. Mr. Côté thanked Dr. Graub, Mr. Tabakow, Mr. Leger and Ms Robinson for a thought provoking and informative presentation.

b) Birks Student Services Centre

Mr. Côté took this opportunity to inform Council that Ms Beaudoin will shortly be taking up duties in Graduate Studies. As this will be her last Council meeting, he thanked her for participation on CCSL. Ms Beaudoin introduced Ms L. Toscano who will be the CCSL representative. Ms Beaudoin gave an overview of the services offered by Birks Centre, emphasizing the different ways students can save time and energy. She distributed to Council the various forms, pamphlets and information sheets that are available for students. She reiterated how important it was for students to make themselves aware of deadlines, rules and regulations. With respect to the Out of Province charge, she explained that this was not an initiative of Concordia University, but of the Quebec Government. The criteria for exemption was developed by the government and is subject to change by the government. The staff at Registrar's has been under tremendous pressure and stress in dealing with the bulk of work that descended on them in September with this new rule. She informed Council that between August 15 and September 30, there were 32,000 in-person visits, and 6,500 Concordia I.D's were made. These figures do not include reception desk inquiries. The volume is about 3000 a week now and they aim for an average waiting time of five minutes. Mr. Feldman said that of that figure of 32,000, some were Loyola students who had no choice but to go downtown for service. Ms Beaudoin agreed and hoped this issue will be addressed in the Revitalization of Loyola Task Force Report. Mr. Côté thanked Ms Beaudoin for a interesting and informative presentation.

7. Report from the Chair, Ms Kerby, Recreation & Athletic Board

As Ms Kerby was ill, there was no report from the chair. It was noted that the Board meeting had been canceled and a meeting was being rescheduled for the week of October 27th. With respect to the vacancy left by Mr. L. Pemberton, Mr. Côté indicated he will speak with Ms Kerby to clarify the status of Mr. Pemberton. It was decided pending the recommendation by the Chair of the Board, CCSL will appoint a replacement for Mr. Pemberton.

8. New Business

8a. Provisional Swap Agreement

It was noted a Proposed Provisional Swap Agreement and a Resolution were tabled by Ms R. Aldworth, President of the CSU.

The attached motion (appendix I) was moved by Mr. Feldman and seconded by Ms. Ryan.

Mr. Feldman addressed the issue, giving the background leading up to the proposed resolution. Although the Provisional Swap Agreement had not yet been signed, the CSU, in good faith, had agreed to let the University to go ahead with the plans to move the Concordian and Cfli from the Centennial Building to CC4 and to start the relocation of the music practice modules in the Campus Centre. Since that move, Mr. Emond, the Vice Rector, Services has indicated he has reservations with some of the clauses in the agreement. It was mentioned that Mr. Emond addressed this issue at the Board of Governors Meeting. Briefly the resolution calls ".... for CCSL to advise the Vice Rector, Services to enter into the provisional swap agreement without delay and that should he fail to do so, CCSL requests that the Board of Governors intervene by conferring a mandate upon the Office of the Rector to enter into said agreement....." A lengthy discussion ensued. It was noted that CCSL cannot dictate to the Board of Governors, it can only request or advise. Some members of Council felt they could not vote on a resolution such as this without also hearing from Mr. Emond who was not present at the meeting. There was discussion on whether the resolution was too personal in nature and too strongly worded. Mr. Feldman said the resolution was intentionally strong, but if there was concern with some of the wording, that could be addressed.

Mr. Feldman, seconded by Ms West, proposed the following amendments to the resolution:

"Whereas" #6,7,8 be struck from the original motion and the following be added: Whereas components of Swap have taken place despite the fact that an agreement to that effect has not yet been signed

The motion to amend the resolution was carried with 5 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstentions.

There was a lengthy debate on the now amended motion (Appendix 2). Mr. Côté informed Council there was a meeting scheduled with Mr. Emond, Ms Aldworth, the Rector and himself on Wednesday, October 23, to discuss this issue. It was the opinion of some members of Council, in light of this information, that discussion on this resolution may be premature. However, Mr. Feldman, Ms Aldworth and Mr. Hinton all felt strongly that, as CCSL was the highest non-academic body at Concordia, it was appropriate for such a resolution to come from CCSL. Mr. Feldman asked if CCSL supported in principle that students have a right to space and buildings.

Professor Barbieri wished his opposition to the amended resolution be recorded in the minutes:

I believe that more information must be forthcoming before we, the members of CCSL, can be in a position to vote on such a motion. It also appears to me as a member of CCSL that the issues involved are in the process of being addressed, and that neither the urgency nor the preparatory work is such as to merit a motion of this nature at this time.

Discussion continued on the motion. Mr. Feldman made the following amendment, seconded by Mr. Kennedy:

BIR that CCSL advise the Vice Rector, Services to enter into an agreement regarding the moves currently underway without further delay

BIFR that should this issue fail to be resolved before the next meeting of the Board of Governors, that CCSL request that the Board of Governors intervene on this issue.

A lengthy discussion followed on the pros and cons of waiting until after the meeting on October 23rd. Ms West felt as it was nearing 2:00pm and the issue was not near resolution, it would be advisable to table the discussion on the amendment to the resolution.

Ms West made the following motion, seconded by Prof Barbieri:

BIR to table the discussion of the resolution to amend until the outcome of the meeting with the Rector on Wednesday

Ms Hughes called the question. Council voted 10 in favor of voting on whether to vote to table discussion on the proposed amendment to the resolution.

The motion to table was passed with 6 in favour, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions

9. Next Meeting

As November 21st is the Fall Convocation date, Council agreed to change the meeting to November 14th. The meeting will be held in H 769 at 10:00am

10. Termination of Meeting

A motion to terminate was made by Ms Hughes, seconded by Ms Ghadban at 2:00pm.